



Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

Board Members in Attendance:

David Nash, *Chair*
Dan Garrett
Jay Lively

Brooks Ann McKinney
Sabrah n'haRaven
Scott Rogers

Chuck Rosenblum
Micheal Woods

Staff:

Christiana Glenn Tugman
Jonathon Jones

Guests:

April Burgess-Johnson
Sarah Lancaster

Mary Sczudlo
Amy Upham

Art Myers
Sioux Free

CALL TO ORDER

1. Minutes

There was a request that the minutes clarify that the Veteran and Coordinated Assessment Sub-Committees submitted the Coordinated Assessment Policies. It was noted that there was conversation regarding residency requirements for Board Members, as well as, endorsements for April Burgess Johnson and Sarah Lancaster to apply for open seats. It was also pointed out that Scott Roger's name was misspelled.

The minutes were approved as amended by Scott Rogers' motion and second by Sabrah n'haRaven.

2. Strategic Planning:

Dan Garrett reported on the feedback emails from the Strategic Planning meeting. General themes of the meeting were compiled with housing stock and support for those being housed. Additional topics included economic support, case management, veteran homelessness, and healthcare. Salvation Army and Smoky Mountain Center had not provided feedback, but would be given the opportunity to do so.

3. Community feedback:

Sabrah n’haRaven reported on the input from the homeless community. Two listening sessions were hosted with the help of Be Loved House staff and engaged approximately 45 participants. A full report would be sent out later, but the top concerns generated by participants were identified as follows:

5. Barriers to housing/More shelter with reasonable rules
4. More affordable housing stock for low income individuals
3. Transit
2. Safe and legal camping space
1. Decriminalization of homelessness

There was additional discussion about building a survey for wider distribution and general agreement for the need to collect new data and compile existing information throughout the community.

Sabrah n’haRaven was asked to take the next steps for developing a standardized survey for use with participating agencies. Jay Lively, David Nash and Brooks Ann McKinney, volunteered to assist with the process. The survey would be available in time for the January Homeless Coalition meeting for distribution by the end of January.

4. December Planning Meeting

Scott Rogers recommended and there was agreement to cancel the December Planning meeting.

5. CoC Application

Christiana Glenn Tugman informed the Committee that the Emergency Solutions Grant application has been submitted and that the goal was to submit the Continuum of Care application that night.

6. Board Vacancies

David Nash updated the Committee that April Burgess-Johnson’s recommendation has been submitted for the open County seat. Residency requirements removed Sarah Lancaster from consideration for the City vacancy, but Amy Upham would be recommended instead.

Angie Pitman has stepped down from the HIAC and a County employee will need to be considered for the vacancy. April Burgess-Johnson recommended Katie Swanson with Child Protective Services. The City will require a recommendation before the next meeting. Jay Lively suggested an Asheville City Schools representative be considered for a future recommendation.

7. Agency Updates and Public Comment

Micheal Woods asked that a new time be considered at the January 2016 meeting.

David Nash reported Oak Hill Commons would move forward with construction that would include 76 units of affordable housing that would accept vouchers, but the Hard-to-House component was unlikely to happen as part of the project.

ADJOURN

For more information on the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee, please contact Christiana Glenn Tugman at ctugman@ashevillenc.gov.